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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7753  
INFO RUSSDO/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 3005  
RUSHLK/AMEMBASSY KABUL 1833  
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BT  
CONFIDENTIAL ANKARA 5266

E.O. 12065: GDS: 8/2/75 (MUY, DENNIS) CC-P  
TAGS: PEPR, TU, AF  
SUBJ: (U) TURKISH VIEWS ON AFGHANISTAN

CN 362

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ECON  
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CHRON

1. (C) -ENTIRE TEXT.

2. THIS IS AN INFORMATION MESSAGE; NO ACTION REQUIRED.

3. SUMMARY: COMMENTS FROM JFA OFFICIALS IN RECENT DAYS HAVE INDICATED THAT THE GOV'S PERCEPTION OF THE AFGHAN SITUATION ARE GENERALLY SIMILAR TO US ANALYSES. THE TURKS WELCOMED BREZINSKI'S STATEMENT AS EVIDENCE OF FIRM US INTEREST IN THE SITUATION. END SUMMARY.

4. DURING SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH ENBOFFS ON AUGUST 7 AND 8, MFA SOUTH ASIA SECTION CHIEF MITHAT BALKAN AND DIRGEN FOR POL AFFAIRS KUSEYIN CELEM, WELCOMED BREZINSKI'S RECENT STATEMENT ON AFGHANISTAN. THE GOV PERCEIVES THE STATEMENT AS EVIDENCE OF US WILLINGNESS TO PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN AFGHANISTAN. CELEM, HOWEVER, DOUBTED THAT THE STATEMENT WOULD DETER THE SOVIETS FROM MAKING "EVERY EFFORT" TO MAINTAIN A COMMUNIST REGIME IN KABUL.

5. IN CELEM'S OPINION, THE SOVIETS WILL NOT PASS UP THE "HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY" TO EXPAND THEIR INFLUENCE IN AFGHANISTAN. THE GOV DOES NOT FORESEE OUTRIGHT COMMITMENT OF SOVIET MILITARY UNITS, THOUGH CELEM BELIEVED SOVIET INVOLVEMENT MAY GRADUALLY ESCALATE IN THE FORM OF INCREASED MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND "ADVISORS". THE TURKS STILL HAD ONLY FRAGMENTARY REPORTS OF THE RECENT FIGHTING IN KABUL, BUT THEY BELIEVE THE TARAKI GOVERNMENT IS IN DEEP TROUBLE. CELEM BELIEVED THE SOVIETS CAN DO LITTLE TO MUTE KHOMEINI'S OUTSPOKEN OPPOSITION TO THE COMMUNIST REGIME IN KABUL, BUT THAT THEY WILL TRY TO EXERT DIPLOMATIC PRESSURE ON PAKISTAN.

6. OTHER TURKISH MFA OFFICIALS EXPERIENCED IN AFGHANISTAN HAVE RECENTLY EXPRESSED SIMILAR VIEWS. MFA MIDDLE EAST BUREAU SECTION CHIEF ALP KAPAGOSMANOGLU NOTED THAT AT THE TIME OF THE TARAKI COUP, THE GOV AND THE DAUD GOVERNMENT WERE ABOUT TO REESTABLISH THEIR EARLIER TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR AFGHAN AIR FORCE OFFICERS. THE TURKS BELIEVE THAT THE REGIME HAS IMPRISONED MOST OF THE TURKISH-TRAINED OFFICERS OR PLACED THEM UNDER HOUSE ARREST, AND REPLACED THEM WITH RUSSIAN-TRAINED OFFICERS.

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